

# Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

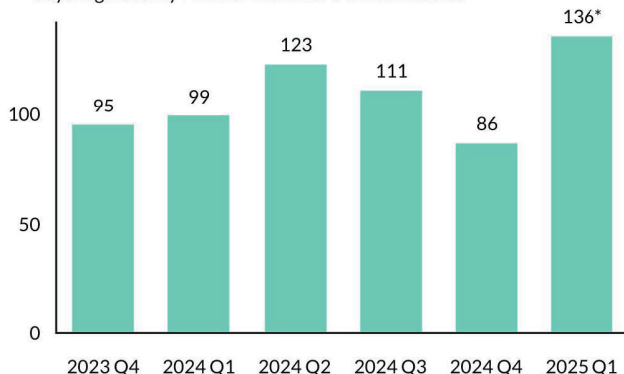
Overdose data surveillance is intended to generate insight to drive more effective prevention and response activities by providing timely dissemination of drug overdose related trends.

## Overdose Deaths

Total Drug Related OD Deaths

↑ 58.1%

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Records

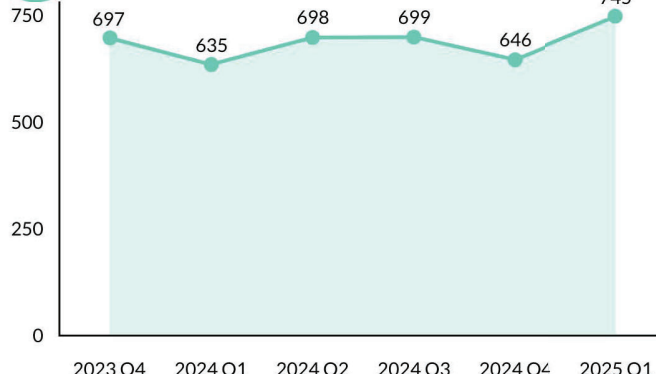


\*These data are preliminary and subject to change.

## Emergency Room Visits

Suspected Drug ODs in ERs

↑ 15.3%

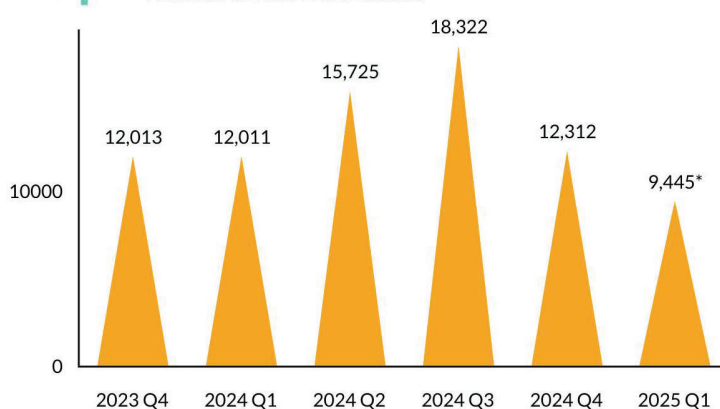


Underreporting may exist due to facilities temporarily out of surveillance.

## Project DAWN

Naloxone Kits Distributed

↓ 23.2%

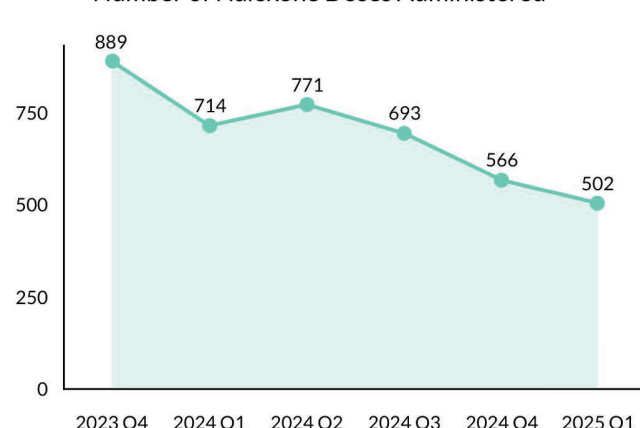


These data represent state registered Project DAWN programs distributing naloxone in Cuyahoga County. It is not required to register as a Project DAWN program to distribute naloxone in Ohio. Data is preliminary and subject to change.

## EMS Naloxone

Number of Naloxone Doses Administered

↓ 11.3%

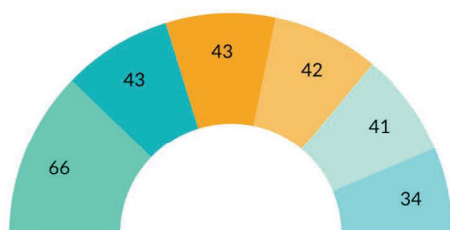


EMS Naloxone administrations are provided by agencies reporting to Ohio EMS

## Syringe Testing

Number of Major Drugs found upon testing (N= 114)  
from January 2025-March 2025

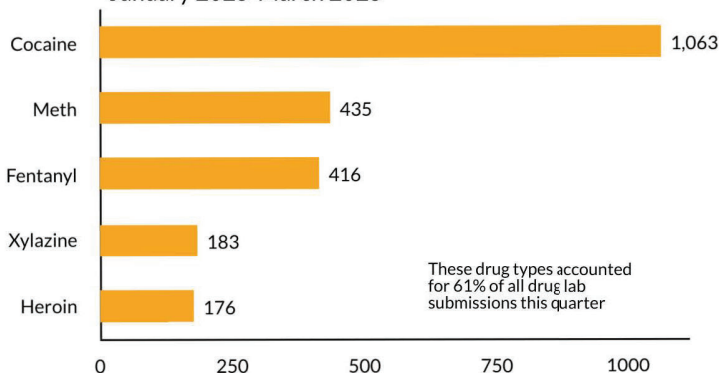
- Fentanyl
- Xylazine
- Medetomidine
- Heroin
- Cocaine
- Meth



Results from pilot drug checking program. Syringes are collected from The Centers and The MetroHealth System's Syringe Service Programs (SSP). A sample may test positive for one or more substances. Figure shows top 5 drug types present in collected syringes.

## Drug Seizure & Lab Testing

Number of Lab Submissions by Drug Types from  
January 2025-March 2025



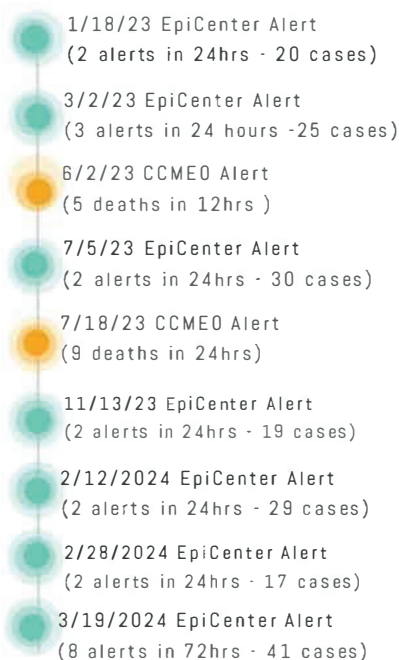
These drug types accounted for 61% of all drug lab submissions this quarter

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Reporting. Figure shows top 5 drug types present in drug seizures and lab testing.



## Overdose Alert Periods

(January 2023- Present)



The overdose alert periods are a combination of non-fatal overdose anomaly (spike) detections reported by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, also known as EpiCenter Alerts, and fatal overdose public health alerts issued by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, shown on a timeline.



## Highlight



### Cuyahoga County's Pilot Drug Checking Program

Through collaboration under CCBH OD2A:LOCAL funding, used syringes collected by The Centers and The MetroHealth System's Syringe Service Programs (SSP) are being drug tested at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office (CCME0). The aim of this program is to understand the drug supply and drug use patterns in Cuyahoga County, beyond fatal overdose. Case Begun Center serves as the evaluation partner.

The program randomly selects 20 syringes per week for testing, of approximately 15,000 collected at seven local SSP, with participant permission. The SSP do accept client requests for syringe testing as well. The results of the testing are shared back to individuals who submitted syringes, the SSP sites, and publicly via a new dashboard on the CCME0 website here:

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoIYThiYmRiMTAtMWVhNS00Njc2LTg2NWQNTc1Y2U0OWU0N2NhIiwidCI6IjYxYjIiMjcwLTJjY2EtNGRkYy04YTBlLTNkNmRmMjQ2MjdlMyI9>

The findings may not be representative of the overall drug supply in Cuyahoga County but are informative of trends and emerging substances. Since August 2024, 350 syringes have been tested. Fentanyl (including fentanyl analogs) was the most common *drug* tested in syringes followed by xylazine and cocaine. This program also tests for *active adulterants* which are not intended substances of use, but do have synergetic effects on the body, and *inactive adulterants* which are not intended substances of use, and have minimal effects on the body. Beginning September 2025 the program will start to test pipes in addition to syringes.



## Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q4 2024 to Q1 2025 unless otherwise stated.  
Data are preliminary and subject to change.

### Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses increased by 58.1% over the last quarter.<sup>1</sup> The number of persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose increased by 15.3%.<sup>2</sup>

Opioid prescribing (not shown) decreased by 3.3% this quarter.<sup>3</sup> There was a 23.2% decrease in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 1 of 2025.<sup>4</sup> EMS naloxone administrations decreased by 11.3%.<sup>5</sup>

From January to March 2025, 114 syringes were tested to identify what major drugs were present. Fentanyl (66) was the most prevalent, followed by xylazine (43), medetomidine (43), heroin (42), cocaine (41), and methamphetamine (34).

From January to March 2025, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (1,063) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFSL), followed by methamphetamine (435). Lab submissions of cocaine increased by 188%, fentanyl increased by 213%, methamphetamine increased by 177%, and xylazine increased by 186% from last quarter. Heroin decreased by 245%.

### Statement from CCME0:

The CCME0 has ruled all drug overdose deaths from 2024. Cuyahoga County suffered 419 overdose deaths, a 34% decrease from 2023. This is a welcomed decrease from years past, however numbers still remain high. There has been a notable increase in cocaine-involved overdose in 2025 thus far. This trend is being closely monitored as stimulant waves often follow periods of high opioid overdose.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
<https://www.ccbh.net/overdose-data-dashboard/>

This product is supported by Overdose Data to Action: LOCAL funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

#### Data Sources and Notes:

- 1 Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Updates at <https://www.cuyahogacounty.gov/medical-examiner/resources/overdose-statistics>
- 2 Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Drug Overdose Among Cuyahoga County Residents. EpiCenter. Ohio Department of Health. Data used for this report is accessed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Similar data is available to the public at <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/Suspected-OD-Dashboard2>
- 3 Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Available <https://www.ohiopmp.gov/County.aspx>
- 4 Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Section - Project DAWN Monthly Distribution Logs. Analyzed by Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
- 5 Ohio EMS. Naloxone Administration Doses, by County. "Naloxone Watch" Available <https://www.ems.ohio.gov/#gsc.tab=0>